

Draft Minutes
Wards 4/7 NPA Meeting
Wednesday January 24, 2018 from 6:45 to 9:00 PM
Robert E Miller Center (130 Gosse CT.)

Start 7:04pm

Steering Committee present: Eric Corbman, Linda Deliduka, Martha Molpus, Jeff Clark, Jim Holway

Open Forum for Elected Officials

Carol Ode-The green mountain secure retirement plan. Working on education funding formula in Montpelier to take in account of English Language Learners and Special needs.

Dave Hartnett-Good schools are tied to a good City. This City has incredible schools from teachers, administrators and school board.

Mark Barlow-School Board adopted a budget on January 23rd. It was difficult because of the State's education formula. Hope that people will support on Town meeting.

Burlington High School (BHS) Presentation: BHS is 50yrs old and there are 7 stories that make up the school. This makes people with mobility issues have difficult time to navigate. One plan is to build on site which came from a 2014 design from Black Water. This design will build class rooms around the gym and A building. An envelope around the building will help insulate and give a new form that will allow more light. The other option is to completely demolish the building and build on the football field and Institute Ave. This is not a popular opinion and this cost will be more than the renovation. To have minimal disruption on student renovation will be in stages. This year, came up with some design directives which are common space for students to meet, making building more assessable, and also for a 2nd gym. The current gym is being overused morning to night which a 2nd gym will free up more space for sports practice. Access to Rock point would stay the same. There are 27million in deferred maintenance for BHS now. Next steps is to continue to engage the community, compile and analyze community input. Make a recommendation to the Superintend for future building project. Going to go present options to Superintend and hope to have on November ballot. It would take 2 years to finish the building and would be done 3 years from now. Even if on the November ballot will have a public process for the design and engagement to involve the community for funding and feedback. More information available NextGen.org or BSDVT.org

School Board Candidates forum:

Martine Gulick-Ward 4 Librarian at Essex. Believe that schools are important and safe haven for students. Felt that the last contract was bad. Committed to negotiate a contract that meets the needs of teachers, students and tax payers. See that the climate is not good and need to address this. Committed to transparent and open teacher contract. See that education is the ultimate vehicle to lifting people out of poverty. The role of the Board is to educate the

community but also the importance of education in economy and lifting out of poverty. Need to be working with Legislature and Governor on funding for education. See it disheartening that Governor was talking about cutting teacher student ratio and then talking about building prisons. Need to have a broader conversation. Social media is great way to get word out about meetings, hiring, and input to increase engagement.

Steve Langehough-Ward 4 Have children at Hunt and CP Smith. Have teaching experience. Have 30 years of military and dealt with a lot of various school. Lived here in for 16 months. Came from a fantastic school system regardless of what the administration or school board said, the school found the resources. Concerned about the bullying that is going on. Disappointed how the administration is dealing and minimizing this. There's not enough looking at working together to see how everyone can gain that's tied to having our kids succeed and become competitive. The State cutting an education budget that is already tight which makes no sense. The money is there and need to look at distribution issue. Communication can improve through direct outreach to parents.

Monika Ivancic-Ward 7 Village Green resident. Husband is Para-educator at Champlain. Works at UVM and has PHD. Move 4 years ago and daughter is in 4th grade. On PTO and created diversity committee to bridge differences to New American community. Developed a Bhutanese night. Husband worked through Kelly services that served 6 schools. Running to build an equal and just education system. We have very good schools and want to keep it this way. Believe in fiscal responsibility, inclusiveness and diversity of all social economic backgrounds. Some ideas to improve climate is encourage more conversation and have School Board members go into the schools. Now that the teacher contract is over can have a conversation on how to move forward. This is a state wide question. State is cutting away at the education and makes it hard on local level property tax.

Financial Futures, State Treasurer Beth Pearce, Representatives Carol Ode and CVOEO

Financial Futures program Director Kate Larose: This panel is a mini version of what went on at the Statehouse. Why does the financial wellbeing of Burlington families and our community matter? If people are more financially stable there is better outcomes, less crime and better health. There was a group that came together to create a book called "What it's worth" that frames financial wellbeing for Americans. There are thrives, where everything is working for them and pushing them forward. There are strugglers, where due to circumstance such as education, debt, Zip code keeps them from moving forward. For Vermonter it's tough when making a low wage and then bumped up to a higher wage and faced with a benefit's cliff. Last year the Legislator help fund affordable housing and savings for the future. Financial literacy is about giving people the tools and knowledge to get to financial wellbeing. ABLE is a program for people who has a disability to save past \$2000 without losing their disability benefits. Another program is a mentoring program for women x-offenders to help with financial stability. When people have more income then they will have less social issues. Attached are 5 key issues that determine financial outcomes. VT is ranked #1 in the nation under these outcomes because in the Statehouse no matter what party affiliation, people work together and treat each with respect. Don't always succeed but always try to do the right thinking. K-12 Develop

core financial literacy and Department of Education has adopted jumpstart programs. Reading is an investment which gives out scholarships from VSAC. Over 1200 people have participated. Green Mountain secure retirement plan which provides employers with less than 50 sign up their employees for retirement plan. Doing outreach to look to people for feedback.

End: 9pm

Notes taken by Phet Keomanyvanh-CEDO